UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/963
S/24489
26 August 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 150
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 24 August 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the statement to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 150, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mark HONG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore on 20 August 1992

The Government of Singapore expresses its deep concern over the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It strongly condemns the practice of "ethnic cleansing" and acts of violence against innocent civilians, which have caused untold human sufferings and resulted in a tragic loss of human lives. The forced expulsion of people from their homes is a serious violation of the basic precepts of international humanitarian law. The Government of Singapore calls upon the perpetrators of such acts to desist from their actions immediately and to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions 770 (1992) and 771 (1992) of 13 August 1992.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/964
S/24490
26 August 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda items 45 and 150
QUESTION OF CYPRUS
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 26 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 25 August 1992 addressed to you by His Excellency Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45 and 150, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 25 August 1992 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the remarks made by the Greek Cypriot representative in the course of his intervention at the resumed session of the General Assembly held yesterday afternoon on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Greek Cypriot side, which misses no opportunity to lash out at the Turkish Cypriots, has also exploited this occasion for its own political ends, by attempting to establish a parallel between the item on the agenda and Cyprus.

Those of us who are familiar with the events of the recent past in Cyprus know perfectly well that the Greek Cypriots are the last people to talk about "ethnic cleansing". In the genocidal attacks they launched against the Turkish Cypriots in 1963, not only did the Greek Cypriots drive us out of our homes and properties but also tried to exterminate us. The savagery of these attacks, which continued intermittently until 1974 prompted a former American Under-Secretary of State, Mr. George Ball, to state in his memoirs entitled "The Past Has Another Pattern" that Makarios was trying "to turn this beautiful island into (his) private abbatoir" (p. 347).

It was our resistance and, ultimately, Turkey's rescue operation in 1974 in its capacity as Guarantor under the 1960 Agreements that saved Cyprus from the vicious Greek Cypriot campaign of "ethnic cleansing".

The Greek Cypriot side cannot cover up its shameful record by trying to shift the blame for their crimes on others. The mass population movements after 1963, which affected exclusively the Turkish Cypriots, were the direct result of the Greek Cypriot campaign to "Hellenize" Cyprus. This was a typical case of "ethnic cleansing". As a consequence, fully a quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population became refugees and the Turkish Cypriots found themselves squeezed into enclaves covering 3 per cent of the country. The Greek Cypriot representative conveniently ignored this dark episode of the history of Cyprus and alluded to what happened after 1974. The regrouping of populations in 1975 was the result of an agreement between the two sides reached in Vienna on 2 August of that year, which was implemented on a totally voluntary basis under United Nations supervision in September 1975 (see S/11789/Add.2 dated 13 September 1975).

The Greek Cypriot representative remarked that there were only 500 Greek Cypriots living in the north. It is regrettable that he did not have the courage to also refer to the even fewer Turkish Cypriots who live in the south.

The Greek Cypriot representative used the occasion of a debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to slander us by drawing false analogies between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Cyprus. As I have indicated, the correct analogy is between the Bosnians and the Turkish Cypriots who have both been victims of brutal "ethnic cleansing".

Before concluding, I should like to point out that the implacable hostility of the Greek Cypriots vis-à-vis their Turkish Cypriot neighbours became manifest once again on the occasion of the General Assembly debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina. Once again, the Greek Cypriots were unable to resist the temptation to reveal their deep-seated hostility to the Turkish Cypriots. They have revealed once again how utterly unprepared they are to form a federation of equals with us. We and the rest of the world will not fail to draw the obvious conclusions on the eve of the convening of the next round of intercommunal talks in New York designed to forge the two Cypriot States into one Federal Republic of Cyprus.

I shall appreciate it if this letter is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45 and 150, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative of the Turkish
Republic of Northern Cyprus

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/965
S/24494
26 August 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 150
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 26 August 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter from His Excellency Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, addressed to all the Heads of State and or Government of the 15 members of the Security Council concerning the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 150, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohd. SINON Mudzakir
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 22 August 1992 from the Prime Minister of Malaysia addressed to all the Heads of State and or Government of the 15 members of the Security Council

For months the world has been witnessing with great pain so much killing and destruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The United Nations and the European Community have tried to do their part in bringing about peace and relief to the people of the country. However, there has been absolutely no progress in the European peace efforts and there have been repeated violations of cease-fires affecting United Nations relief efforts. Many of the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council have been ignored. The sanctions applied by the Security Council have not had any tangible effect. Instead, in recent weeks we have been witnessing the most horrendous crimes against humanity committed by Serbian nationalists against Muslim and Christian civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Even United Nations peace-keepers have come under attack. What originated as internal turmoil due to the fragmentation of Yugoslavia has deteriorated into clear acts of aggression and armed intervention, in this case by Serbia and Montenegro against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The daily bombardments of civilian population centres and recent horrific news about atrocities committed in the concentration camps and through the Serbian policy of ethnic cleansing have finally moved the Security Council to adopt resolution 770 (1992), providing for the use of all necessary means to bring relief supplies to the civilian population of Bosnia and Herzegovina and resolution 771 (1992), demanding access to the concentration camps. Like most of the other members of the international community, Malaysia welcomes the adoption of these resolutions. Regrettably, this latest action by the Council is far from enough as the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has turned for the worst. What is at stake now is not just the danger of mass starvation which the resolution is meant to address and the demand for access to the concentration camps, but to stop wanton acts of atrocities and killings of Bosnian Muslims and Christians by the Serbs and the destruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a nation.

Malaysia is convinced that the time has now come for the Council, for the sake of upholding human values and the rule of law, to take firm and forthright collective measures, including those provided for under Article 42 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in order to restore peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as in the region.

There are a number of reasons why the Council should act in a decisive manner now. Firstly, no matter how well disguised, the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina involves acts of armed intervention and aggression by Serbia and Montenegro, which threaten the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the newest members of the United Nations. It is the responsibility of the United Nations Security Council to

restore and guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The whole credibility of the Council and the concept of collective security rest on the willingness and ability of the Council to uphold international law, in particular, guaranteeing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a Member State. The Council, particularly the permanent members, cannot choose where and when to exercise collective measures as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. The Council must live up to the responsibility given to it by the Charter and respond positively to the increasing voice of the general membership of the United Nations calling for resolute action by the Council to uphold the rule of law.

Secondly, there are now very clear serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law with regard to atrocities committed by the Serbs against innocent Bosnian Muslim and Christian civilians in the towns, villages and concentration camps. The Serbian policy of "ethnic cleansing" is despicable and, at this juncture in world history, the international community cannot possibly afford to be seen taking a feeble and tentative stand on this. The United Nations and other international bodies including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) should be careful not to undertake relief efforts in a manner that would ironically assist the Serbian policy of "ethnic cleansing". The Security Council has an obligation to use all means necessary to put an end to the atrocities and institute measures that would bring to justice those individuals and leaders responsible for war crimes in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law, including, the International Genocide Convention.

Thirdly, the Security Council cannot merely address the plight of Bosnian civilian population under siege and daily bombardments by the Serbs through United Nations relief efforts. The Council must also put an end to the siege and bombardments of many Bosnian civilian population centres by taking direct action against those responsible.

Fourthly, the Council should be concerned that the European peace initiative may well end in allowing the Serbs, who constitute a third of Bosnia's population, to gain two thirds of Bosnian territory and split the new nation apart. More importantly, it is naïve and delusory to think that Serbian armed intervention and aggression would stop at Bosnia and Herzegovina. Any form of endorsement of Serbian territorial gains through use of force and other illegal actions would only encourage their quest for a greater Serbia and this could well lead to even wider conflagration in the Balkans, threatening international peace and security further.

Malaysia believes that the Security Council has an obligation in the spirit of the Charter to take into consideration the views and be accountable to the general membership of the United Nations, and as the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has become so serious, I should like to appeal to you to agree to an urgent formal debate in the Council to consider the question of Bosnia and Herzegovina and take appropriate collective measures under the Charter to restore peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region.